ANNOUNCEMENT RE: (1) THE RECOGNITION OF THE TRAVANCORE UNIVERSITY FOR ADMISSION TO THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE AND GOVERNMENT OF INDIA EXAMINATIONS AND (2) THE EXTENSION OF THE PERIOD OF THE LEGISLATURE.

PRESIDENT: Before proceeding to the next item on the agenda, I am glad to be able to announce to the honourable members of the Assembly that the Secretary of State for India has accepted the suggestion to include the Travancore University in the list of recognised Universities for admission to the Indian Civil Service Examination. The Government of India have also recognised the University in respect of their examinations.

I have to make another announcement. The Government have decided that a general election of the Houses of the Legislature will not take place next year. The life of the Legislature will probably be extended for one more year. I felt that the members of the Legislature should be made aware of this decision fairly early. This decision has been arrived at as a matter of economy of time and money and so that candidates need not be put to unnecessary trouble and expenditure.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.—(*contd.*)

THE TRAVANCORE DEBT RELIEF BILL—(*contd.*)

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, before this Bill is allowed to be taken into consideration for its further stages, I wish to emphasise certain points. At the very outset I may say that if anything is intended to be given it should be given with grace. We should not do anything half-heartedly. It is particularly so with regard to this most important measure. The Bill should not necessitate the introduction or consideration or passing of another Bill within a short time to remedy the defects in this Bill. The Bill should be complete, adequate, definite and satisfying in all respects. There are debtors with small properties who may not be able to meet all their debts with their assets. Some provision should be made in the Bill so that they may get at least some portion of their properties free from debts. There was a proposal by the Debt Relief Committee that subject to a maximum of Rs. 5,000, there should be provision made allowing one-fourth of the property to be retained by the debtor for his subsistence. No man's household should be put up for sale for his debts. There should be some mercy shown to him.

The earliest official document that we have is a G. O. passed by the Government on the 11th of July 1939 and that G. O. brought into existence a Committee. That Committee sat for 34 days and deliberated in every detail with regard to the measures to be adopted for the relief of the debtors and they have produced a very valuable report and the Dewan on the 4th of March 1940 said that the Government are in entire agreement with a great deal of what is contained in the report. But in the face of that, the learned Legal Remembrance

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